

NATIONAL REVIEW

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## The Chile Connection

The current flap in this country over CIA operations in Chile is not an isolated incident. In global perspective, it appears, rather, as the U.S. contribution to an international pageant coinciding with the first anniversary of the overthrow of the Allende government by the military Junta.

The Left had a big stake in Allende. Chile's Communist Party was the largest in Latin America, and has always remained faithful to the Kremlin. For the Soviet Union and for the Chilean Party, the Allende regime promised to be the highroad to the first Communist state on the Latin American continent. The non-Communist Left was no less closely involved with Allende, though as usual it saw Chile through its rose-tinted glasses. Allende was going to show the world how to achieve "democratic socialism" peacefully. The Junta's takeover thus struck a devastating blow at the strategy of the Communists and at the illusions of the non-Communist Left. Both, ever since, have been trying to re-form and counterattack.

In Europe the Left's propaganda and mass actions on the Chile issue have been more conspicuous than in this country. There are all sorts of committees to save the victims of the Junta, restore democracy to Chile, help the Chilean refugees, and so on. In the U.S. as well as in Europe, there has been an enormous quantity of articles, columns, and editorials expended on the crimes of the Junta and the virtues of Allende. On the September 15 anniversary, 10,000 leftists gathered in London's Trafalgar Square to denounce the Junta and the U.S. as its Svengali, and many thousands marched and made speeches in the other European capitals. And at just about the same time, Representative Michael Harrington leaked the secret Colby testimony about the CIA in Chile, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* published it for the world audience, the U.S. Congress developed an attack of hysteria on the subject, and the UN critics and enemies of the U.S. prepared to make the General Assembly resound with Chilean echoes.

What is going on, thus, is a powerful global political

warfare campaign, directed nominally against the Chilean Junta but basically against the U.S., in which Moscow, the Communist parties, and some sections of the Left are conscious participants, and the rest of the Left, many liberals, much of the media, and too many members of Congress are sincere or opportunistic dupes.

We do not mean to suggest that there are not serious issues involved in this dispute, concerning which intelligent Americans can have honest and objective differences of opinion. There are many such: Can and should a democracy conduct secret operations? Is the CIA the right sort of agency to conduct them? *Can* operations be kept secret in a democracy? Granted the propriety of secret operations in the abstract, were those conducted in Chile justified? How can a democratic society supervise secret operations without blowing them? We have discussed these questions in the past and shall often return to them. But in this world we live in, it is always also prudent to note who is doing what to whom.

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